

OUR K-9's BACKGROUND

Port Hueneme Police Department uses the Inglis Police Dog Training Group to assist in selecting and training our police service dogs. Each K-9 is handpicked with a selected handler in mind. Each K-9 is tested and selected in person by our trainers, Debbie & Dave Inglis, who fly to Germany and Czech Republic to purchase dogs for perspective handlers. Most dogs work for 6 to 8 years, depending on illness or injuries. If the dog is of retiring age or is unable to be paired with another officer, the dog can be given to the officer (usually purchased for \$1.00), as they have become an intimate member of the officer's family.

Medical – Police K-9s can be injured while on duty. Most common are falls. When an injury occurs the K-9 is rushed to our department's 24-hour veterinarian for treatment. Our vet is specially trained for the unique requirements of our dogs.

Feeding – Due to the special activities Ike & Don perform, they are fed a mixture of imported dog food. We use ABADY, which does not expand with water and cause bloating or stomach torsion.



HELP SUPPORT OUR K-9 UNIT

Donations – The Port Hueneme K-9 program is dependent on donations from citizens and organizations. This brochure is to inform you about the value of our K-9 Unit and ask for your support.

Mail donations to
Port Hueneme Police Department
250 North Ventura Road
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Checks payable to
Port Hueneme
Police Officer's Association
K-9 Fund

For more information
Sergeant Rick Perez
rperez@ci.port-hueneme.ca.us
(805) 986-6530

K-9 Teams available for
demonstrations by appointment.



2008.09

PORT HUENEME POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT



Sr. Officer Bates & Don
(Don Vom Suhler Wappen)



Officer Lopez & Ike
(Cowboy Vom der Salztal-Hohe)

TRAINING

Obedience is what separates working dogs from other dogs and is the basis for all of our training. Without obedience there is no control. Ike and Don don't bark, sit, stand, or apprehend without being commanded. Dogs that think on their own and make independent decisions also make mistakes that can cause accidents in the line of duty

Narcotics – Ike and Don recognize the odor of marijuana, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamines. Narcotics detection makes up more than 90% of the dogs police duties. Our dogs' ability to locate drugs, whether in a building, vehicle, in the open or even in a field make them extremely valuable in our constant fight against drugs.

Obstacles - Ike and Don are trained to traverse various types of obstacles that simulate environments that they may encounter in the field: six foot walls, windows, tunnels, balance beams, teeter-totters, suspension bridges, barrels, etc. They must be comfortable and confident so they can navigate all types of real-world areas.

Apprehension – Any dog can be trained to bite a sleeve or suit (once made from burlap and now made from Syntax, a taught nylon). Ike and Don are trained to be under control and again, not to do anything unless commanded by the officer. Their primary function is handler protection.

Tracking – Ike and Don can locate a person by following footsteps and tracking them from a known location. These tracks can be miles long and up to 24 hours old. Of course, this is also useful in locating lost persons. They can also do "air scenting" which is when they are allowed to run around yards and buildings in search of a person using only the scent in the air.

Scenarios are created to teach the dogs how to listen to commands and not make their own decisions. Whether it is multiple helpers on the field or the handler getting attacked, the dogs do not bite unless commanded. As an example, an officer could be helping an intoxicated person, seizure victim or elderly person who falls or leans on them and the dog could mistake that action as hostile. Control of our dogs is important to their personal safety and the safety of our citizens.



WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Port Hueneme Police Department is able to maintain two full-time K-9 teams largely because of donations from citizens and organizations. These funds are vital to the program and pay for food, veterinary services, equipment, training, and even the purchase of the dogs themselves.

The Port Hueneme Police Department's K-9 Unit play an important role in law enforcement. For example, many drug related crimes would go unnoticed if it were not for the dog's unique ability to locate concealed drugs. Also, officers would be at a greater risk of harm if the dogs were not available to help apprehend aggressive suspects. The dog's presence at a scene can also have a calming effect on what might otherwise be a volatile situation.

PATROL CARS AND K-9S

Ike and Don can spend 12 hours a day in a vehicle and it is literally their home. Therefore, our cars are almost always left running. The cooling system must be kept on, even in cool weather, because the interior can get very hot. Sometimes even in the middle of night, it can be 85 degrees inside the car. With that temperature, just imagine wearing a fur coat as well. Our cars do have a system that allows the officer to take the keys out yet keep the engine and air conditioning on. Our dogs' health and safety are of utmost importance.